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## West Meets East in Grace Beyond Belief

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# West Meets East in Grace Beyond Belief

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*Mary Dengler*

Accidents happen  
because people act  
on what they perceive  
and believe to be.  
I was walking through  
a Vegas parking lot in late July.  
My husband, Ed, who  
walked ten feet behind,  
was looking at the ground  
or only me.

A car in backing up  
had stopped to let me through.  
But then assumption backed by reason  
trumped the truth.  
The driver thought  
that I was on my own.  
My husband thought  
that he was safe in seeing me alone.  
And I assumed the driver looked again  
and saw us both.

But all of us were wrong.  
She didn't look again before she surged.  
He followed in my wake in faith  
That Moses-like I'd lead him safely on;  
I looked ahead, assured of human reckoning.

The car accelerated backward just  
as Ed began to cross its path  
still glancing down or straight ahead at me.  
And I, half-turning to remark the heat,  
was stricken mute, ahead in time,  
assuming he was dead,  
then gathered force in time to bellow "Stop!"

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He heard and turned to face the missile  
as it hit. The impact folded him in half  
and carried him along before  
the driver felt the gentle load and stopped,  
allowing him to drop.

Belief now turned to faith. Had  
she hit him sideways as he walked,  
there would have been no folding  
than the fold of broken bone. Instead  
a car designed by Chung-ju Yung,  
with South Korean drive,  
had tackled with a Suma's strength  
that folded him in half.

Like a tape rewinding, up he leaped  
but shouted, "I'm okay"  
at my unnecessary grief,  
as death reversed to life.  
Again, assumption, reason, fled  
At grace beyond belief.